

5029 '99 AUG 11 P2:30

2918 Nottingham Way
Madison, WI 53713
August 6, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

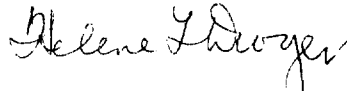
Re: Docket Numbers 98N-1230; 96P--0418; 97P-0197

It is sickening to find that the egg producing industry intentionally force-molts hens. Not only is this a cruel treatment of sentient animals (as shown by the many deaths and illnesses that it causes), but (as witnessed by the statements of the FDA's own Food Safety and Inspection Service) it also increases the likelihood that the eggs will contain salmonella which will poison human consumers .

A ban on forced molting was requested in April 1998. There is no reason to delay this any longer. The FDA certainly has the jurisdiction to do this, since it has jurisdiction to ban any farm practices that injure human health.

The desire for profit on the part of an industry must not be allowed to interfere with human health or cause such extreme suffering to animals. The FDA **must prohibit** forced molting.

Sincerely,



Helene L. Dwyer, Ph.D.

96P-0418

C155



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20852/0001



CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ *C155*

See File Number: 97P-0197/ *C156*
96P-0418/ *C157*